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Sen. Allen announces Clean Water Act grants

LANSING – Four projects in northern Michigan will receive grants to improve water quality and wildlife habitat in local watersheds, announced state Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City.

Grants have been awarded to the Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay, Antrim Conservation District, the Huron Pines Resource Conservation and Development Area Council and the Chippewa/East Mackinac Conservation District.

“The state of our environment and water quality of our lakes is a top priority,” Allen said. “With these grants we will be able to improve the quality of our lakes, streams and the land that supports them, ensuring their health and beauty for years to come for future generations to enjoy.”

The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay will receive \$116,628 for the Kid’s Creek implementation project; Antrim Conservation District was awarded \$243,625 for restoration of the Elk River tributaries; Huron Pines Resource Conservation and Development Area Council will receive \$68,354 for the Upper Manistee River Watershed Protection Project; and the Chippewa/East Mackinac Conservation District will receive \$102,891 for the Sault Ste. Marie Area Watershed planning project.

Watershed planning projects require matching funds of 10 percent, while implementation projects require matching funds of 25 percent.

“This is great news for residents of northern Michigan,” said Allen. “Our greatest natural resource in Michigan is our waters. Boating, fishing or swimming, residents and tourists alike enjoy the water year round and we need to be vigilant stewards of our waters to ensure that these opportunities remain for years to come.”

The grants were awarded through the federal Clean Water Act. Twenty communities and organizations across the state received 22 grants totaling more than \$4.5 million.

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